

What is claimed is:

- [Claim 1]** 1. An arm sling assembly for supporting at least one of the arms of a patient against the torso, said assembly comprising:
- a generally sleeveless vest dimensioned to be worn on the torso of the patient,
- said vest including a back portion, left and right front portions projecting from opposite sides of the back portion, and left and right arm receiving openings; and
- an arm support cuff being attached to one of the front portions at vertically spaced upper and lower attachment zones and presenting side margins which are detached from the one front portion between the attachment zones so as to define an open-sided arm passageway in which the corresponding arm may be inserted and supported,
- said arm cuff being adjustably and removably attached to the one front portion at the upper attachment zone so that the arm passageway is vertically adjustable.
- [Claim 2]** 2. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 1,
- said arm cuff being fixedly and non-adjustably attached to the one front portion at the lower attachment zone,
- said lower attachment zone sloping upwardly toward the center of the torso when the vest is worn.
- [Claim 3]** 3. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 2,
- said lower attachment zone sloping upwardly toward the center of the torso at an angle between approximately 5 and 20 degrees relative to horizontal, when the vest is worn.
- [Claim 4]** 4. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 3,
- said angle being approximately 15 degrees.
- [Claim 5]** 5. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 2,
- said lower attachment zone being generally linear and extending across the one front portion.
- [Claim 6]** 6. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 5,
- said arm support cuff comprising a cloth article,

said lower attachment zone comprising stitching that interconnects the cloth article and the one front portion.

[Claim 7] 7. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 1,
said arm cuff being adjustably and removably attached to the one front
portion by complementary strips of hook and loop material.

[Claim 8] 8. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 1,
said side margins diverging downwardly relative to one another from the
upper attachment zone to the lower attachment zone.

[Claim 9] 9. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 1,
said upper attachment zone being located generally over the breast just
below the shoulder and said lower attachment zone being located over the abdomen
at or just below the rib cage, when the vest is worn.

[Claim 10] 10. The arm sling assembly as claimed in claim 1,
said arm support cuff being attached to the left front portion of the vest;
and
a second arm support cuff being attached to the right front portion of the
vest second vertically spaced upper and lower attachment zones and presenting
second side margins which are detached from the right front portion between the
second attachment zones so as to define a second open-sided passageway in which
the right arm may be inserted and supported.

[Claim 11] 11. A method of supporting an arm of a patient in a flexed
position against the torso, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting the arm into a sleeveless vest;
- (b) supporting the arm in the flexed position on the vest with an arm
cuff;
- (c) wrapping a strap around the arm, the arm cuff, and a portion of the
torso,
step (c) including the steps of attaching one end of the strap to the back of
the vest and wrapping the opposite end of the strap around the arm, the arm cuff, and
a portion of the torso; and
- (d) securing the strap to the back of the vest to retain the arm and the
arm cuff against the torso and to secure the arm in the arm cuff,
step (d) including the step of adjustably securing the opposite end of the
strap to the back of the vest.

[Claim 12] 12. The method as claimed in claim 11,
 step (c) including the step of positioning the one end of the strap on one
side of the back of the vest,
 step (d) including the step of positioning the opposite end of the strap on
the other side of the back of the vest at a position spaced from where the one end of
the strap is attached.

[Claim 13] 13. The method as claimed in claim 12,
 step (d) being performed after step (c).

[Claim 14] 14. The method as claimed in claim 12,
 step (d) including the step of removably securing the opposite end of the
strap to the other side of the back of the vest.

[Claim 15] 15. The method as claimed in claim 12,
 step (c) including the step of adjustably and removably attaching the one
end of the strap to the one side of the back of the vest.